

WEED BEACH BUILDING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday – 7:30pm – October 1, 2008
Room 119 – Town Hall

Present: M. Hawley, J. Enters, J. Howe, P. Hovell, S. Swiatek, M. Wright, D. Bayne, C. Darby, J. Branigan, D. Parnon

Audience: Callie Sullivan, Selectman, Lee Pratt, RTM – Parks & Rec. Committee, Cheryl Russell, RTM – Chairman, Parks & Rec. Committee, Vin Burke, Parks & Rec. Commission

Hovell convened the meeting at 7:40pm.

Playground Report - Darby gave the committee a schedule of upcoming events and fund raisers: JR Forever Memorial Walk on Oct. 11 at Pear Tree Beach, Opening Day Game at the Sound Tigers, 2pm on Oct. 19 and a Soiree at the Darien nature Center on Nov. 8 from 7:30-10:00pm. To reach their goal, the playground committee must raise \$82,742.78.

Darby reported that the cost of the playground equipment company will be increasing by 10%, effective January 1, 2009. It has been suggested that we purchase the equipment before the middle of November to avoid the additional expense. The Playground Committee would like to purchase the equipment and gift it to the town immediately so it is stored as town property. The Parks & Rec. Dept. has offered to store it.

Brian Hyla (APC) offered to develop a proposal for work to begin the project until construction can begin.

Bayne mentioned the Weed Beach Building Project delay came up at the BOS meeting Monday night. There was consensus among the Selectmen that the project should move forward and construction could occur through the summer.

Swiatek expressed some concern regarding safety issues as the beach is used heavily by several camps from June to the middle of August. Conceivably the warming hut could be fenced off and construction could be started during the summer.

Enters expressed his opinion that APC made a mistake by dividing the project into 16 pieces. He suggested that the committee forget about the numbers on the Construction Budget Analysis, which was distributed at the Sept. 25 WBBC meeting as he feels they are higher than they should be and that there was no need to go through the list item by item. Enters said that bidding larger packages would result in lower costs. Each building should have been bid out as a separate project. A contractor could offer lower costs on a larger project. Enters stated that the whole bath house didn't have to be redesigned because the numbers were wrong. Hovell asked Enters to attend the meeting with APC at noon on Oct. 7.

Bayne suggested the committee go through the list and talk about the elements that can't be seen to determine what can be eliminated to decrease the cost.

A discussion followed about GC's and CM's, what bidding process should have been used.

Hovell distributed the list of original objectives that were included in the Master Plan and the charge given to the WBBC. The committee went through the list and decided the following elements could be eliminated without compromising the project: Nature Trail/Enhancement and Improvement of wetlands around the pumping station, Picnic Area Pavilion, relocate the Volleyball Court, renovate the Sailing Building.

Enters asked for a break down of the \$1.5m allocated for "Sitework" on the Construction Budget Analysis sheet.

The topic of prevailing wage as one of the reasons for the higher costs and the number of bids. Russell gave Hovell information for a state grant.

Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2008 and August 6, 2008 were approved. July 23, 2008 minutes were approved as amended.

Special Meetings have been scheduled for **October 8, 7:30pm – Room 206 – Town Hall**
and **October 15, 2008, 7:30pm – Room 213 – Town Hall**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Parnon, Secretary

Approved 10.22.08

(10.1.08)